

REMARKS

Claims 35, 43 and 46-48 are amended. Claim 40 is cancelled. Claims 35-39, 41-48 and 75 are pending in the application.

Claims 35-48 and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Besser, U.S. Patent No. 5,582,881; Marieb, U.S. Patent No. 5,909,635; Colgan, U.S. Patent No. 5,925,933; and Shan, U.S. Patent No. 6,140,228. The Examiner is reminded by direction to MPEP § 2143 that a proper obviousness rejection has the following three requirements: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine reference teachings; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the combined references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Pending claims 35-39, 41-48 and 75 are allowable over Besser, Shan, Colgan and Marieb for at least the reason that the references, individually or as combined, fail to disclose each and every limitation in any of those claims.

As amended, independent claim 35 recites depositing an aluminum comprising layer where at least an outermost portion of the layer is deposited at a temperature of at least 400° C, and physical vapor depositing a titanium alloy on the first layer while at least an outer portion of the first layer is at a temperature of at least 360° C. Claim 35 further recites that a second layer is formed during the depositing of the titanium alloy, the second layer comprising aluminum from the first layer alloyed with titanium from the deposited titanium alloy. Not one of the cited references, or any combination thereof, discloses or suggests the recited deposition of a titanium alloy on an aluminum comprising layer to form a second layer comprising an alloy of the aluminum from the first layer and the titanium of the titanium alloy. Accordingly, independent claim 35 is not rendered obvious by the cited

combination of Besser, Shan, Colgan and Marieb and is allowable over these references.

Claims 43 and 46-48 are amended to properly depend from independent claim 35. Claim 40 is cancelled. Dependent claims 36-39, 41-48 and 75 are allowable over the cited combination of Besser, Shan, Colgan and Marieb for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 35.

For the reasons discussed above, pending claims 35-39, 41-48 and 75 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such pending claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

January 16, 2004

By:

Jennifer J Taylor
Jennifer J. Taylor
Reg. No. 48,711